

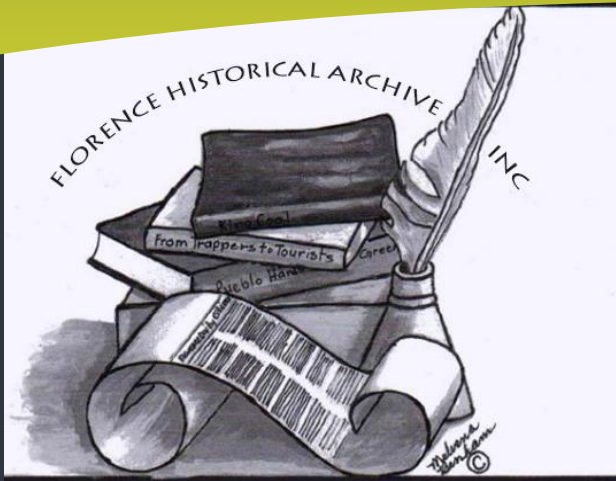
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We will see you this summer for The Lecture Series



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The words archive and archives have more than one meaning.

Archives may mean the repository where public records and/or historical documents are kept. The word archive will also mean the collection of documents themselves whereas archive is either a noun or a verb. As a noun it refers to a particular collection of documents and as a verb it means to place or store something in an archive.

The purpose of an archive is to preserve and protect documents while still making them available to researchers. This requires the use of special materials and handling. Many documents placed in an archive are one of a kind and irreplaceable. If lost, a document can result in a piece of history lost forever. Collections are selected based on the relevance to the focus of the archive.

There are differences between Archives, Libraries, and Museums. Documents within archives are used in-house while most libraires lend out their material, museums are more visional with articles placed on displayed.

An Archivist is the keeper of the archive. For Florence Historical Archive, Dr. Mildred "Millie" Wintz fills this position.

Happy
90th
Birthday
to Our
Archivist



Meet a Volunteer of Your Archive!

Dr. Millie Wintz,
Your Archivist and Local
Historical Activist in Fremont
County

By the definition of “Archive” on the previous page, it would be a fair description of this Florence Archivist. Although the terms environment and ecology were not even words in my depression era upbringing, my career revolved around them.

I was shipped off to the University of Pennsylvania to the only school for women with teaching and nursing the accepted career choices for my generation. I was lured by the passing T-squares and rolls of tracing paper down the halls of the Fine Arts Building, carried by the returning WWII veterans. I discovered architectural drafting. While not knowing a cornice from a pediment, I did know I belonged there. My engineer father permitted the change from the School of Education to the School of Fine Arts.

A further change of study took me from the classic to modern architecture with its’ vocabulary of ergonomic, urban planning, overlaid reinforced concrete and steel construction and studies of biotic and abiotic environmental sciences. So went my entry in the world of architectural design with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and a wonderful architect husband.

Emerging into a field of environmentalism yet to be defined, soon my professional design work at Wintz Associates, A.S.I.D, was eclipsed by my volunteer work with nascent watersheds. I invested 15 years in a paid position as Director of Education for a watershed association with the additional certificates in teaching environmental education and vocational tech earned. With those certifications, I was invited to judge Science Fair in the state and international arena. The need for accreditation sent me to Temple University for a Doctorate in Curriculum Theory and Formation in Environmental Education, in 1987.

The social science of our local environmental history led to my involvement in two historical societies. The extensive archive training under a professional archivist at Old York Historical Society led me to transfer my new skills as archivist to Upper Moreland Historical Commission.

My teaching skills were also invested in our three children. The environmental skills led my growth from den mother to a position within the Boy Scouts as “Environment Merit Badge Counselor.” I dedicated 64 years to Scouting in Philadelphia.

You may be wondering how I arrived in Florence and your Archive. Following the loss of my husband, I found my “Land of Oz” beyond the traditional Kansas version, Colorado. I met the original collector of what was to become the Florence Historical Archive, Carol Fox, and began investing myself in the intent of her collections. New historical commissions-Fremont Heritage Commission, Florence Historical Preservation Council, PCC’s Senior College, Canon City Historical Preservation Commission along with your Archive have enabled the use of my old skills in the need of their own identities. As it turns out, the intent seems to be “Life is Good”.



Welcome to Old Mexico! A Story of Lent-Dorothy Cool

A true story from Florence Colorado's history taken from the booklet "Camp and Plant, Titled Los Penitents, dated May 23, 1903.

The pueblo of Mexico existed right in this very spot, into the late 1800's and early 1900's. Try to visualize when laughing children played here, with dogs, goats, pet coons, and the favorite, donkeys. Their adobe homes have long since melted back into the earth with kivas built in the thick walls to keep homes warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

But there was another side to this happy picture.

Many of the adults of the village belonged to an order of Roman Catholic faith called the Order of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. He had vowed himself to a life of poverty and austere mortification of the flesh, He established the order designed for penitents whose rituals included self-flagellation and ceremonies conducted to atone for sins.

On Ash Wednesday, each fervent member (male or female) either tattooed or cut themselves with a cross on some part of their body. The wound was kept open for the forty days of lent. All during lent, meetings were held at special houses (morado) or churches where members flagellate themselves with leather whips which had either metal balls or sharp-edged cactus woven into it. To this day, dried blood can be seen on the rafters of old chapels throughout Mexico and Southern Colorado, as throngs struck and wet blood splashed from the bodies of the enthused penitents. Prayer, meditation and fasting kept on until exhaustion set in.

During the last week of lent, members marching to the mournful tune from a fife, at every step the swish of the whip could be heard striking one shoulder then the next. Imagine the line of shirtless hatless men paying no attention to the track lined with cactus and rivulets of blood as they marched up to two miles to the special morado. This parading continued until Good Friday when the Passion was reenacted. Honored penitents taking the place of the two thieves and the Savior and the Roman soldiers. The "Savior" carrying the cross, wearing his own crown of prickly pear thorns, falling three times in route to "Calvary. The honored penitent was tied and hung on the upright cross for three hours. When taken down he either recovered or died. In which case he received a distinguished burial by his village and his family was honored by his reenactment as the "Savior".

Editor notes: Ms. Cool is also a contributor to Geocaching.com

This story is attached to Geo site reference: GC46EA4 N 38 24.090 W105 06.871

Keep Eyes on IT

The Archive's "Add Your Voice to The Archive"

An Ongoing Family history project.

**Wednesdays &
Thursdays
10am to 1pm at
the Archive**

Participants work with archive staff to record their family stories and experiences. The goal is to preserve local history while telling stories of their Fremont Co. area arrivals.

The project is not only to add your story to the Archive's Family Collection but to capture and preserve your story for your descendants. All research data available in the archive and the talent of the staff will be available to the participants. Your story will be collected and published into a booklet format.

For more information:

Call 719-372-1648 or
719-429-4624

**HISTORY IS FOR
EVERYONE!**

Meet Pat and Jim Nelson ~ Our First New Members of 2022

Pat and Jim became Fremont County residents in 2013 after retiring from lengthy careers in community and economic development in Arizona. Pat who grew up in the San Luis Valley where her family farmed and grew potatoes, and Jim a native Arizonan moved here to be closer to family. They purchased a Craftsman bungalow on Macon Avenue in 2007, worked with local tradesmen to extensively restore it until the sale of the Arizona property in 2013.

"I loved looking at the Sangres growing up," says Pat. "Now I see them from the other side after a short drive up Eightmile."

"Fremont County's history and geology fascinated me," says Jim. "I visited the Royal Gorge on a family vacation in the early 1950's, but I had little knowledge of the area, The main memory I have of that visit is the Arkansas River. Growing up in Arizona I was not used to seeing actual water flowing in rivers that only happened after a flood," he added.

Today, Pat is treasurer of Fremont County Historical Society and Jim is treasurer of the Fremont County Heritage Commission, also members of Canon City Historic Preservation, Friends of the Royal Gorge Museum and participates in "Crossroads Through Time Heritage Park". Together they received the "Doc Little" award in 2016 and continue to enjoy learning more of our region's heritage and helping spread the word to others.

"The Florence Archive is something to cherish," says Pat. "we need a safe repository for their Family's history, photos and other records. The FHA volunteers do a wonderful and professional service maintaining and sharing our incredible history. We are grateful for the chance to help support the Archive's mission." she concluded.



Meet Our First Business Supporter of 2022!

Cristelli Insurance Agency, proprietor Jennifer Cristelli is a proud supporter of the Florence Historical Archive, Inc.

With deep roots in Florence, preserving our community's history is very important to Jennifer and her staff. Jenny is heavily involved in serving her community both professionally and personally. She is involved in The Florence Chamber of Commerce and the Sons of Italy of America and now our Archive.

"My goal is to help individuals and businesses navigate the world of insurance to provide the best protection possible. Like the volunteers of the Archive preserving our local and family histories, I have the knowledge and experience to help. Know your options. From homes and autos, to business and non-profits, I can help with your coverage needs, preserving your peace of mind."

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